

results in the use of sodium citrate mixed with blood rather dampens one's ardor for the employment of this indirect method. Nor does the use of hirudin as an anticoagulant appeal to one.

Abel has advocated a method termed plasmaphoresis, wherein washed blood cells mixed with salt solution are substituted for blood. The essential element of blood is supposed thus to be furnished. Experimentally I have tried this method but the difficulties of washing the large quantity of blood needed are considerable. For 1000 c.c. of blood it is necessary to centrifuge 20,000 c.c. or 10 gallons of solution. This and an indefinite dislike for cold storage blood rather prejudices me against it.

As a feature of technic we have found that citrate and salt solution used freely on the exposed blood vessels during the entire operation is much more efficient in maintaining the anti-thrombin-prothrombin balance than a protective coating of petrolatum. The subject of untoward results of transfusion has been thoroughly detailed by Van Beuren and in our work we have not met them. In one case in which we previously had done a transfusion the patient died suddenly while being transfused at another hospital. The cause of death was not ascertained but the clinical history rather suggests acute cardiac dilatation.

The lesson to be drawn from this series is that transfusion here saved the lives of at least one-fourth of these patients. In typhoid fever with hemorrhage this should be a routine measure, using the medical or indirect method and, if possible, having a donor with acquired immunity. In purpura and severe urticaria it is almost specific. In hemorrhage and preliminary to major surgical operations upon the debilitated it is a life saving procedure.

Transfusion by the indirect method should be at the command of every practitioner of medicine. But surgeons doubtless for some time will still favor the more satisfactory types of direct transfusion.

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THE PHYSICIAN AND THE ADOPTION LAW IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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Nearly every physician has had at one time or another a maternity case where the mother for some reason felt that she could not retain her child. Sometimes the woman has been deserted by her husband. In other cases he is unable to work. Again she may not be married at all. In any case she must go out to work and cannot care for the baby, or earns too little to pay her baby's board and her own. In such a case what is more natural than for her to ask the physician to respond to her appeal. Somewhere in his practice he has found people who want to adopt a young child. He puts them in touch with the unfortunate mother. They secure custody of the baby either by formal relinquishment or by waiting for a year to elapse.

No law has been broken, unless the doctor has actually taken the child from its mother to the foster parents or has himself arranged for the removal.¹ Yet the very purpose of one of the laws affecting young children is entirely defeated. The State has made itself responsible (Chap. 569, Stats. 1911 and Chap. 69, Stats. 1913)² for all children for whom foster homes must be found. The purpose of these laws is two-fold: first, to prevent the giving up of children by their natural parents wherever possible in order that added burdens may not be thrust upon the community either directly or indirectly; and second, to make sure that foster homes in which dependent children are placed are of such character as to insure proper care and training for these unfortunates.

Machinery is provided under the law for supervision of the work of finding homes. Child-placing is definitely restricted to such agencies as are licensed by the State Board of Charities and Corrections. These licenses are granted only to societies which can demonstrate their ability not only to find suitable homes but to keep track of the children placed for adoption until there is no question or doubt that each child and its new home are mutually adapted. It is customary for an agent of a home-finding society to investigate carefully each applicant. If the home is satisfactory—morally, financially, physically—a child will be placed conditionally for six months or a year. During this time the agent visits the foster home to see whether the arrangement is best for all concerned. If all is well, the society gives its consent and the adoption is consummated.

There are nine organizations so licensed. They are:

- (1) Associated Charities of Oakland.
- (2) Catholic Humane Bureau, San Francisco.
- (3) Catholic Ladies' Aid Society of Alameda County, Oakland.
- (4) Children's Agency of the Associated Charities of San Francisco.
- (5) Charity Organization Society, Berkeley.
- (6) Children's Home Society of California, Los Angeles.

- (7) Eureka Benevolent Society, San Francisco.
- (8) Los Angeles Humane Society for Children.
- (9) Native Sons' and Native Daughters' Central Committee on Homeless Children, San Francisco.

The work of these organizations is investigated and supervised by the State Board of Charities and Corrections. Thus there is provided a means for seeing that proper care is given every child whose natural home fails. But actually many children are placed in foster homes without record or investigation—largely because physicians and nurses are unacquainted with the machinery which has been described.

Some, however, fear that the regularly constituted means of handling these cases will bring undesirable publicity or notoriety upon the foster parents, the mother, or the child. This may indeed, happen, but almost always it can be, and is, avoided. Frequently it is desirable to conceal the facts from neighbors and others, and this can usually be done without interfering with investigation and supervision. Always it is the welfare of the child that is uppermost in our minds and this can be best safeguarded by handling these matters through the regularly established channels.

That there is justification for so great care is evident from known cases of improper placement and even complete disappearance of children. One well-known hospital in Alameda County permitted a child to be removed by a total stranger without even recording the address to which it was taken. Home-finding involves more than the initial act. It involves responsibility for seeing that the home is a suitable place for a child, that the foster parents are able and willing to give the child the care it needs and finally that they do give the child proper care and training. This requires an expenditure of time which the average physician is not able to give. Surely he will welcome a plan which relieves him of this great responsibility and at the same time assures the prompt and proper handling of these unfortunate children.

¹ Sec. 4, Chap. 569, Stats. 1911. It is hereby made a misdemeanor for any person or persons, either as individuals or officers of any association or society, to engage in the work of placing children into homes, or the soliciting of funds therefor, in this state without a permit duly executed in writing by the state board of charities and corrections, authorizing said persons or such association or society to engage therein, or to engage in such work after any permit has been canceled.

² Sec. 1, Chap. 69, Stats. 1913. No person, association, or corporation shall hereafter maintain or conduct in this state any maternity hospital or lying-in asylum where females may be received, cared for or treated during pregnancy, or during or, after delivery; or any institution, boarding house, home or other place conducted as a place for the reception and care of children, without first obtaining a license or permit therefor, in writing, from the state board of charities and corrections, such permit or license once issued to continue until revoked for cause after a hearing.

PROGRAM

THE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES A VERY FULL PROGRAM AND NO MORE PAPERS CAN BE ACCEPTED. THE ADVANCE PROGRAM WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH JOURNAL. LOOK FOR IT.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Operations of Surgery. (Jacobson.) Sixth edition. By R. P. Rowlands and Philip Turner. Vols. 1 and 2. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York. 1915.

This is the sixth edition of a very good operative surgery. Besides giving the usual features found in works on surgery it is replete with many matters of unusual and particular interest. Its chapters on lung surgery and wounds of the heart are particularly good. Every phase of modern surgery is dealt with in a comprehensive way; nothing seems to be too small nor overlooked; the major subjects are dealt with in a classical manner. It can be recommended as a vade mecum.

S. T. P.

American Illustrated Medical Dictionary (Dorland). New (8th) Edition Revised and Enlarged. A new and complete dictionary of terms used in Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Veterinary Science, Nursing, Biology, and kindred branches; with new and elaborate tables. Eighth Revised Edition. Edited by W. A. Newman Dorland, M.D. Large octavo of 1135 pages, with 331 illustrations, 119 in colors. Containing over 1,500 more terms than the previous edition. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Flexible leather, \$4.50 net; thumb index, \$5.00 net.

We have commented most favorably upon previous editions of this invaluable dictionary; the present edition is, of course, enlarged and improved. It seems almost superfluous to say that a copy ought to be in the library of every physician—especially those who write papers for publication!

Diseases of the Skin and the Eruptive Fevers.

By Jay Frank Schamberg, M. D., Professor of Dermatology and Infectious Eruptive Diseases in the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine. Third edition, revised. Octavo of 585 pages, 248 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$3.00 net.

The author has improved his book in this edition by the revision of some of the chapters on syphilis in accordance with the very latest accepted ideas, and also by the addition of some excellent photographs, and considerable amplification of the sections devoted to the exanthemata.

The full discussion of the acute eruptive fevers with the accompanying very good illustrations is a most valuable feature.

H. E. A.